



## INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

### **CHAIRPERSON'S TALKING NOTES DURING THE REGISTRATION OF THE RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER 27th NOVEMBER 2012, KIBERA DC'S OFFICE**

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**Observe all Protocol....**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is with great pleasure that we are here this afternoon to witness the **registration of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister as a voter for the upcoming** general elections.

The Voter registration exercise, which is going on countrywide, is a great step in our journey to reform the way we conduct elections. The Commission introduced technology to strengthen the electoral process, especially to curb cheating through multiple registrations. In the past, election fraudsters were able to vote more than twice because they presented documents, which could be easily manipulated. The Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system will largely curb this fraudulent behavior. You can manipulate documents but you cannot manipulate personal features like facial appearance and fingerprints.

We are now entering the second week of the exercise having registered **2.8 million in the 1<sup>st</sup> week** out of the **18m voters** that the Commission has targeted. This is a modest achievement considering that we had hitches at the start of the process attributed to the delays occasioned by a multitude of factors, including insecurity, rains and password expiry. We are happy to report that these problems have been addressed.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We are an independent Commission but the nature of our work requires that we must work with everyone to ensure that the process is smooth and credible. We are going into a big election and we need the goodwill of everyone. The Commission is responsible for the conduct of the election but does not own the elections. It is our elections. We all have stakes and can make contributions for successful elections, one way or another.

As the Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on the Implementation of the Constitution **Rt. Hon. Prime Minister**, part of your task touched on the procurement of the BVR Kits. We are grateful for your timely intervention that led to the Government-to-Government contract to purchase the BVR Kits. We also thank you for fast-tracking the signing of the disbursement of the final tranche under the contract.

This is a fresh registration of voters **Ladies and Gentlemen...** It means that even those who registered in 2010 for the Referendum and the by-elections must register again. **Ladies and gentlemen....** those of you who still hold the old ECK or IIEC voter's cards, you must still be registered afresh to participate in the general elections.

The law provides for the use of the National ID cards or a valid passport as the identification documents. The good news is that the old ID cards are also allowed. The Waiting Cards however are not ID Cards and therefore not allowed.

We are aware of the challenges of issuance and collection of ID Cards. The Ministry of Immigration has assured us all their support in hastening the issuance to allow registration of as many Kenyans as possible. We also appeal for those who may have applied to follow up on their uncollected ID Cards. The Ministry still holds thousands of uncollected IDs. The Commission is working closely with the Provincial Administration at the local levels to mobilize collection of these cards.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I urge all Kenyans to support us in achieving the 18 million target. We will continue to educate voters through many ways. We have voter educators sensitizing the public on the importance of the registration exercise and on the requirements for registration. We

have continued to engage the media, who are our key partners, to pass the message to the people.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

In an effort to have a more inclusive process and to change the culture and perception around elections, we will have 5-region voter marathons countrywide starting from 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The ticket to the race is registering as a voter. We also want to pass a message that like sports, there is life after elections. Elections are competitive but should never be combative. We urge interested organizations to support the sports initiative.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

As I continue to appeal to my fellow Kenyans to come out and register in large numbers and avoid the last minute rush, I also wish to make a special appeal to persons with disabilities to come out in large numbers and register. The BVR Kits provide a facility for indicating the category of disability of a person. This information will be used to make any special arrangements for such persons during voting.

The data captured during the exercise can only be used for purposes of compiling the Principal Register and not for any other purpose. We wish to assure Kenyans that their data is safe with us.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I would also like to thank the staff of the Commission for their

continued Support and dedication in delivering this mandate. Despite the challenges, they have worked hard as a team and gone beyond their call of duty to ensure that the registration exercise runs smoothly. The country owes them great gratitude.

The Commission is closely monitoring the exercise and addressing any emerging issues. I urge our staff to continue using innovative ways to reach the voters depending on the unique circumstances of the areas. For instance, working with organizations such as Ahadi Kenya to address the plight of the jigger-infested voters or moving the Kits to market places, watering halls or areas of worships.

As I conclude **Rt. Hon. Prime Minister**, I want to assure dear Kenyans of our commitment to our mandate and request that we join our hands together and move forward for the prosperity of our beloved country.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

*Allow me now to call upon the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to the podium to make his speech, after which he will proceed to the registration desk for the registration exercise.*

**Thank You....**